

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for screening agents which inhibit an angiogenic response
 comprising
 a) contacting:
 i) an inactive pro form or convertase-activated form of an
 integrin α subunit,
10 ii) an agent to be tested for the ability to inhibit angiogenesis,
 and
 iii) metalloprotease MT1-MMP,
 under conditions promoting an increase in activation of the integrin
 α subunit in the absence of said agent, and
15 b) correlating inhibition of said increase in integrin α subunit activation
 with the ability of the agent to inhibit angiogenesis.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the correlating step is accomplished by
 observing a difference in migration of the activated form versus the inactive
20 form of the alpha subunit in electrophoresis or chromatography.
3. The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein the MT1-MMP and pro form of the
 integrin α subunit are recombinantly expressed within the same cell.
- 25 4. The method of claim 1 in which said contacting step is performed within a
 cell.

5. The method of claim 1 in which the activation of said alpha subunit is accomplished by cleavage of the pro form of said alpha subunit.
- 5 6. The method of any of the foregoing claims wherein the activation of said alpha subunit is accomplished by a change in glycosylation of the pro form of said alpha subunit.
- 10 7. The method of claim 1 in which said correlating step comprises the use of a reporter gene and detection of the presence or absence of the product of reporter gene expression as an indication of inhibition of an increase in alpha subunit activation.
- 15 8. A method of treating a patient suffering from a pathological condition in which angiogenesis is at least partially a causative or perpetuating factor comprising administering to said patient an agent capable of inhibiting an increase in activation of an inactive pro form or convertase-activated form of an integrin α subunit by MT1-MMP metalloprotease.
- 20 9. A method of treating a patient suffering from a pathological condition in which angiogenesis is at least partially a causative or perpetuating factor comprising treating said patient with agent that specifically inhibits activation of a pro form of a specific integrin α subunit selected from the group consisting of α_3 , α_4 , α_5 , α_6 , α_7 , α_8 , α_9 , α_{2b} , α_E and α_V .
- 25 10. The method of claim 9 in which said specific integrin α subunit is α_V .